



U P D A T E

St. Lucie County

March 15, 2006

**A Monthly Update
of Current Events
and Happenings
within St. Lucie**

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This update is published monthly by the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners' Public Information Office. Direct inquiries to Linette Trabulsy, Public Information Officer, St. Lucie County, 2300 Virginia Avenue, Fort Pierce, FL 34982, 772.462.1791.

Board of County Commission Special Meetings & Workshops Scheduled

- The Board of County Commissioners, the School Board of St. Lucie County and the City of Fort Pierce will hold a joint meeting on Monday, April 10, 2006, at the City of Fort Pierce Commission Chambers, first floor, 100 North U.S. Hwy. 1, from 9:00 a.m. until noon.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold a Workshop with the Research & Education Authority on Tuesday, May 1, 2006, from 2:00 until 5:00 p.m. in the County Commission Chambers.

Open Space Pool Splash Park

On March 14, the Board of County Commissioners approved \$250,000 towards a splash park addition at the renovated Open Space pool located on Avenue M in Fort Pierce. The County recently completed construction on the renovation and upgrade of the pool and construction for the splash park addition is scheduled to begin later this year.

Special Needs Shelter/Auditorium Update

The Board of County Commissioners approved the contract with Schenkel Schultz Architecture, Inc. in the amount of \$641,000 for the design of the Special Needs Shelter/Auditorium and permission to advertise Invitation for Bid (IFB). Construction on the project is scheduled to begin later this year.

Relocation of Veterans Services Department

The Board of County Commissioners approved the relocation of the of the St. Lucie County Veterans Services office from the St. Lucie West South County Annex to the Walton Road South County Administration Annex. Relocation of the office and staff will take place in fall of 2006.

Avenue J Pedestrian Bridge

On March 14, the Board of County Commissioners directed staff to request that the St. Lucie County Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Florida Department of Transportation allow the County to combine the St. James Drive sidewalk and the Avenue J Pedestrian Bridge Enhancement Grants into one project. This will allow the County to fund the complete construction of the Avenue J Pedestrian Bridge.

St. Lucie County Master Gardeners

The St. Lucie County Master Gardeners will hold their "Spring Into Gardening Festival" on Saturday, April 22, 2006, from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the St. Lucie County Extension Office on Picos Road in Fort Pierce. For more information, contact the Extension Office at 462-1660.

Veterans Golf Tournament

The 15th Annual United Veterans Golf Tournament will be on Saturday, April 22, 2006, at Fairwinds Golf Course beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Annual Earth Day Celebration

The Oxbow Eco-Center will host their Annual Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 22, 2006, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Environmental Resources Department Special Events

Spruce Bluff Archeological Walk ~ Saturday, March 18 at 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. ~ Discover a ceremonial Indian mound built thousands of years ago. Discuss the immense process of constructing it and the significance behind it. Register in advance, limited space available. For reservations or for more information, call (772) 462-2526.

Pinelands Owl Prowl ~ Saturday, March 25 at 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. ~ Whoo, whoo, whoo wants to see barred owls, screech owls and great horned owls? A biologist will call our local feathered friends under a full moon. Flashlights are necessary. Program generally limited to the first 15. For reservations or for more information, call (772) 462-2526.

Pinelands Animal Tracks Trek ~ Saturday, April 1 at 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. ~ Been out hiking and see animals tracks and not know what kind they are? Join us and we will try to find some to identify. Program generally limited to the first 15. For reservations or for more information, call (772) 462-2526.

Stargazing at Bluefield ~ Saturday, April 8 at 8:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. ~ Calling all stargazers. Fix your eyes on the sky, miles from the city lights, with the expertise of the local astronomy club members to help guide viewing through professional telescopes. Dress appropriately and bring a chair or blanket to view from. Program generally limited to the first 15. For reservations or for more information, call (772) 462-2526.

Upcoming Events at the Oxbow Eco-Center

"Losing it All to Sprawl" ~ March 24 ~ 7:00 p.m. ~ Bill Bellville, award-winning author and documentary filmmaker will give a talk on his new book, "Losing it All to Sprawl: How progress Ate My Cracker Landscape."

"Living in a Watershed" (Teacher In-Service Workshop) ~ March 25 ~ 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. ~ Formal and Non-formal educators can learn more about living in the St. Lucie Watershed and its connections to the Everglades. This workshop includes seven (7) in service credits for attending, \$50 stipend, Gateway to Saving Everglades curriculum, and education on Watershed concept; Southern Florida Watershed; Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project; and hands-on water quality testing on the St. Lucie River. Space is limited. Please register by calling Misty at (772) 785-5833.

Guided Hikes ~ Every Saturday at 10:00 a.m. ~ Join a naturalist and take a hike through the Oxbow forest. Free. No reservations are needed.

Upcoming Events at the Library

Medicare Part D (Prescription Options) Workshop will be offered by the St. Lucie County Library and Medicare RX Access Network ~ **Morningside Branch Library** ~ March 22, 2006, at 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. and April 12, 2006, at 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. ~ **Fort Pierce Branch Library** ~ April 27, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. All options will be explained and a question and answer period to follow.

Watercolor Artist ~ March 29, 2006, at 1:00 p.m. ~ Renowned Miniature Watercolor Artist, Kim Atwooll, will be demonstrating four tropical landscapes at the Fort Pierce Library. Free. Reservations are needed. For reservations or more information, please call (772) 462-2887.

Wings 'N Wheels Air, Military and Vehicle Show at the Airport

The Wing 'N Wheels Air, Military, and Vehicle Show will be on March 25th and 26th, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the St. Lucie County International Airport located on St. Lucie Boulevard in Fort Pierce.

Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society

St. Lucie County and the Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society will hold a Waterside Festival on Saturday, April 1, 2006, on 2nd Street Downtown Fort Pierce from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

ZoraFest 2006

ZoraFest 2006, the second annual event celebrating the life of Zora Neale Hurston, is scheduled for April 28 through April 30. Festivities will take place at Lincoln Park Academy located at 1806 Avenue I in Fort Pierce. For more information regarding ZoraFest, please contact the St. Lucie County Cultural Affairs Department at (772) 462-2548 or email Debra Brisson at brissond@stlucieco.gov.

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